



# Painting and Coating Activities

The *County of San Diego Watershed Protection Program* supports businesses in their efforts to prevent pollution by offering these important Stormwater Best Management Practices (BMPs).

- ! Water that is released into the streets, gutters, and storm drains in San Diego County IS NOT TREATED before it reaches our local creeks, rivers, and the ocean. All sources of pollution are prohibited from leaving your property and entering streets or storm drains. Only rainwater is allowed in the streets and storm drains. *These tips for painting and coating will help keep our waterways clean.*

## Painting

- ▣ Identify whether the paint contains lead\*.
- ▣ Work within an enclosed area whenever possible.
- ▣ Use drip pans and drop cloths to catch spills.
- ▣ Store all paint-related materials under cover and in a contained area.
- ▣ Keep containers in good condition and cover them when not in use.

## Cleaning

- ▣ Dispose of waste paints, solvents and thinners as hazardous waste.
- ▣ Clean up work areas daily, including removing all paint chips and dust. Use dry methods such as sweeping, wiping, vacuuming, or raking.
- ▣ Water may only be used if it can be contained and disposed of according to all applicable laws and regulations. When using wet cleaning methods, cover nearby storm drain inlets.
- ▣ Rinse out paintbrushes or equipment only to the sanitary sewer such as a sink and never to an impervious surface such as a driveway or curb gutter.

*\* Surfaces painted before 1978 may contain lead-based paint. State law and some local ordinances regulate the removal and disposal of lead-based paint. It is your responsibility to determine whether the paint contains lead, prior to removal and disposal. Contact the County of San Diego at (858) 694-2888, and ask to speak with an Industrial Hygienist, for lead-based paint removal and disposal requirements.*

- ! Releasing pollutants directly or indirectly into the storm drain system or waterways is a violation of the County's Watershed Protection Ordinance (WPO). *Your business is required to comply with the WPO and the following minimum BMPs.*

we can  
**protect our  
waterways**

with just  
a few steps.

**thank you**  
for doing your part  
to protect our  
waterways.



For more information, call the Stormwater Hotline at **(888) 846-0800** or visit **[www.sandiegocounty.gov/stormwater](http://www.sandiegocounty.gov/stormwater)** for the WPO.